

Urges Congress to Provide Concurrent Receipt to 100,000 Vets

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Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Harry Teague announced he will urge Congress to expand Concurrent Receipt for over 100,000 deserving veterans across the country. The request, a bi-partisan initiative led by Teague, would allow military members whose careers have been cut short due to a disabling injury, illness, or disease to receive both retirement and disability pay at the same time. Under the plan, these retirees would no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability compensation.

“These men and women who risked their lives for our country have more than earned the right receive both their full retirement and disability funds. Rather than thanking them for their bravery and rewarding them fully for their service, our veterans total retirement pay is unfairly subjected to the discriminatory dollar-for-dollar offset against disability compensation from the VA,” said Harry Teague, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. “Not only is expanding the Concurrent Receipt program to Chapter 61 retirees simply the right thing to do, it should have been done much sooner.”

The proposal calls for a phase-in of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay eligibility to Chapter 61 retirees. Currently, all Chapter 61 retirees, or those who medically retired from military service with a 30% or greater VA rated disability, with less than 20 years of service are ineligible for Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) as well as Chapter 61 retirees with over 20 years of service rated less than 50% by the VA. This population of over 100,000 veterans has been unfairly excluded from receiving benefits they earned with their service to and sacrifice for our nation.

The initiative has been broadly supported by veterans' service organizations. In a letter to Teague, The Military Coalition, a consortium of nationally prominent military and veteran organizations that represents more than 5.5 million members, wrote, "Extending CRDP to servicemembers whose careers have been cut short due to a disabling injury, illness or disease is the equitable next step toward recognizing their military service. Thank you again for your outstanding support of our men and women who have served and sacrificed for our nation and your undertaking to further eliminate the disability tax."

Thirty-three veterans service organizations have written to Teague endorsing his concurrent receipt effort.

Congressman Teague has made veterans' issues a top priority, helping to secure advanced appropriations funding for the VA and introducing legislation aimed at addressing and reducing the impact of mental health issues like PTSD have on the lives of returning veterans. Recently, his bill to provide per diem and lodging payments to caregivers who accompany veterans on hospital visits was signed in to law as part of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act.

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